Newburyport Dec 30. 1874

Dear friend Garrison / I have this
day completed my fiftieth year
of my life. I have received by
telegram your kind congratulations
on that event, how good it is to
be so promptly remembered by my
old and tried friend.
We, (excuse the we) have fought
together on more emancipation from
the government and now you
demand of the government a
prompt and full performance of
its pledges, in this I fully join
with you and may you live to
see this desire fully accomplished.
Come down my friend and let
us shake hands on this, and

being pleasant past remembrance to mind, with bright hopes for the future. You will find in me a much aged grown old man weaker and weaker but [illegible] strong to friendship. Hoping to see you soon my dear Jesse me in kind love to yourself and families Fanny and Alice

I am yours truly
William Ashley

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